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USAID Supports Swine Business Forum

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

September 10, 2008



The Swine Business Forum was presided over by H.E. Dr. Ohkna Mong Reththy, Senator and Co-chairman of Agriculture and Agro-Industry Working Group, and Reed Aeschliman, Director of General Development of USAID.

More than 100 rural entrepreneurs from Cambodia's pig industry gathered in Phnom Penh on September 10 for a forum to discuss lessons learned and future challenges in the swine industry. The forum is part of the USAID-funded Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) program, which is designed to improve the productivity of rural businesses. The forum allowed producers, traders, input suppliers, associations members, banks, government representatives

and other interested parties to present and discuss ideas and identify solutions to problems facing Cambodia's swine industry.

USAID's MSME project has worked to assist about 1,400 swine enterprises across the swine supply chain – pig raisers, veterinarians, input suppliers, traders and wholesalers, and processors – to technically improve their production volumes and increase sales. In the project's three years of operation, participating entrepreneurs invested an average of \$5,300 in their businesses, 500 percent more than they did before working with the project. Their gross sales grew by an average of 300 percent to \$3,800 during that period.